

Other notes about naloxone

- You should always carry your Prenoxad® injection kit with you when you go out, especially if you or people you know are intending to take heroin or other opioid drugs.
- You should also make sure that your friends or family know where to find the kit in case they need to use it.
- All drugs must be kept out of reach of children and animals. Children should never be given your medication. Always call 999 if you think a child has swallowed your medication. Talk to your Health Visitor or GP if your child has difficulty sleeping or being soothed.
- You should return to the service for a replacement Prenoxad® kit in the event of using the kit, losing it or if it expires.
- Make sure you are familiar with the signs of overdose and the action to take.
- We offer free naloxone training to family members, friends and professionals.



About Change Grow Live

Change Grow Live is a social care and health charity that works with individuals who want to change their lives for the better and achieve positive and life-affirming goals.

Find out more

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Your Questions Answered

Naloxone

www.changegrowlive.org



What is naloxone?

Naloxone is an emergency medication used to temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose (e.g. heroin or methadone). Naloxone has an important role in reversing the effects of opioids and preventing death. Get your free kit in your local service today - you could save a life!



Our mission is to help people change the direction of their lives, grow as a person and live life to its full potential.

What is naloxone? Continued

You will be supplied with a brand of naloxone called Prenoxad®.

Naloxone is only effective in opioid overdose, and will not work for other non-opioid drugs.

Who supplies naloxone and when?

Depending on the systems in place at your service, you will be provided with naloxone by a doctor, nurse or recovery worker who has been trained in overdose management and provision of naloxone kits. Naloxone does not necessarily require a prescription to be supplied.

Naloxone may be supplied to service users, family members, hostels, carers or any other group who may be in a position to help in the event of opioid overdose.

Naloxone can be provided at any point during your treatment, ask your recovery worker. There is a requirement for the individual being supplied to be trained in the use of naloxone, this does not take much time. Anyone can administer naloxone in an emergency for the purpose of saving a life.



Why choose naloxone?

Opioid overdose continues to be a major cause of death amongst injecting drug users in Britain. Naloxone has been used for many years in medical emergencies to temporarily reverse the effects of opioid overdose and prevent death. If you are at risk of opioid overdose, naloxone could save your life.

Using naloxone

Naloxone will be supplied in a sealed kit containing a pre-filled syringe of naloxone, two needles for injecting the naloxone (in case one breaks or is lost) and a product information leaflet. It is important the needles are not used for other purposes so they are available immediately if needed.

Naloxone only temporarily reverses the effects of opioid overdose and works for a short amount of time, therefore it is important that in an overdose situation an ambulance is called, even if the person comes round and appears recovered.

It is quicker and easier to give naloxone into a muscle, such as the outer thigh or upper arm muscle, and this is usually how naloxone is given by paramedics. The injection can be given through clothing.

You will be provided with training regarding opioid overdose and how to use the naloxone kit in an emergency.

How long will it take to work?

Naloxone takes 2 – 5 minutes to work when injected into a muscle and the effects last for 20 – 40 minutes

However, duration and type of effect from naloxone depends on which opioid was used, how much opioid was used, how the drug was taken and if any other drugs or alcohol have been used. Repeated doses of naloxone can be given every 2 – 3 minutes if needed.

Always call 999 if and when you suspect an opiate overdose. The Ambulance will not bring a Police escort except in certain circumstances, e.g. if there is a marker on the address, or if a child is present.

